

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

A brief conference with the Examiner on November 20, 2006 regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is acknowledged with appreciation.

The specification has been amended to overcome the objection to the Abstract and to update the status of the co-pending application

Pursuant to the conference with the Examiner, the present claim amendments are intended to clarify the manner in which the claims distinguish patentably from Geiger (U.S. 6,240,602), the reference relied upon in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claim 1 now recites that the pawl extends from an inner wall of the bore in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bore, that only a single pair of thread engaging sections are formed at opposite sides of the thick section of the pawl at a tip end of the thick section, that only a single pair of grooves are formed adjacent to corresponding engaging sections of the pawl at the opposite sides of the thick section, and that the opposite sides of the thick section of the pawl between the grooves and the thin section are devoid of thread engaging

sections and grooves corresponding to thread engaging sections.

It is apparent in Fig. 15 of Geiger, for example, that there are several thread engaging sections and corresponding grooves at the opposite sides of the thick section of the pawl, contrary to Applicant's invention.

Claim 3 now recites that the pawl extends from an inner wall of the bore in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bore, that the length of the thick section of the pawl is substantially greater than a distance between the inner wall and a stud fully inserted in the bore, and that after full insertion of a stud in the bore, a centerline of the pawl forms an angle substantially less than  $90^\circ$  from the centerline of the pawl before insertion of a stud.

In Fig. 16 of Geiger it is apparent that after full insertion of the stud, the centerline of the pawl does not form an angle substantially less than  $90^\circ$  from the centerline of the pawl before insertion of a stud (shown in Fig. 15).

Claim 4 now recites that a tip of each engaging section is arcuate in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bore. Claim 5 now recites that each groove is arcuate in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of

the bore. The curvature of the tip of each engaging section and each groove of the pawl 7 is apparent in Figs. 2A and 2B of Applicant's drawings. It is apparent from Fig. 14 of Geiger that the stepped teeth of the pawl are straight, not curved in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the bore.

Claim 6 now recites that the pawl has a centerline extending in a first direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bore before insertion of a stud in the bore and forming an angle of substantially less than 90° with respect to the first direction after full insertion of the stud in the bore, that the pawl has only a single thread engaging section at a pawl tip at one side of the pawl and has only a single adjacent groove at said one side of the pawl, and that the pawl has a length along said one side between the groove and the hinge that is devoid of thread engaging sections and thread crest receiving grooves.

From the earlier discussion of Geiger, it is apparent that Geiger does not disclose the invention recited in Claim 6.

Dependent Claim 9 now recites only a single engaging section and only a single groove at each of opposite sides of the thicker section of the pawl.

Dependent Claim 10 now recites that tips of the engaging sections and the grooves are arcuate in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bore.

For the foregoing reasons, all of the claims now presented distinguish patentably from Geiger and should be allowed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (ZBIP-908677) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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